



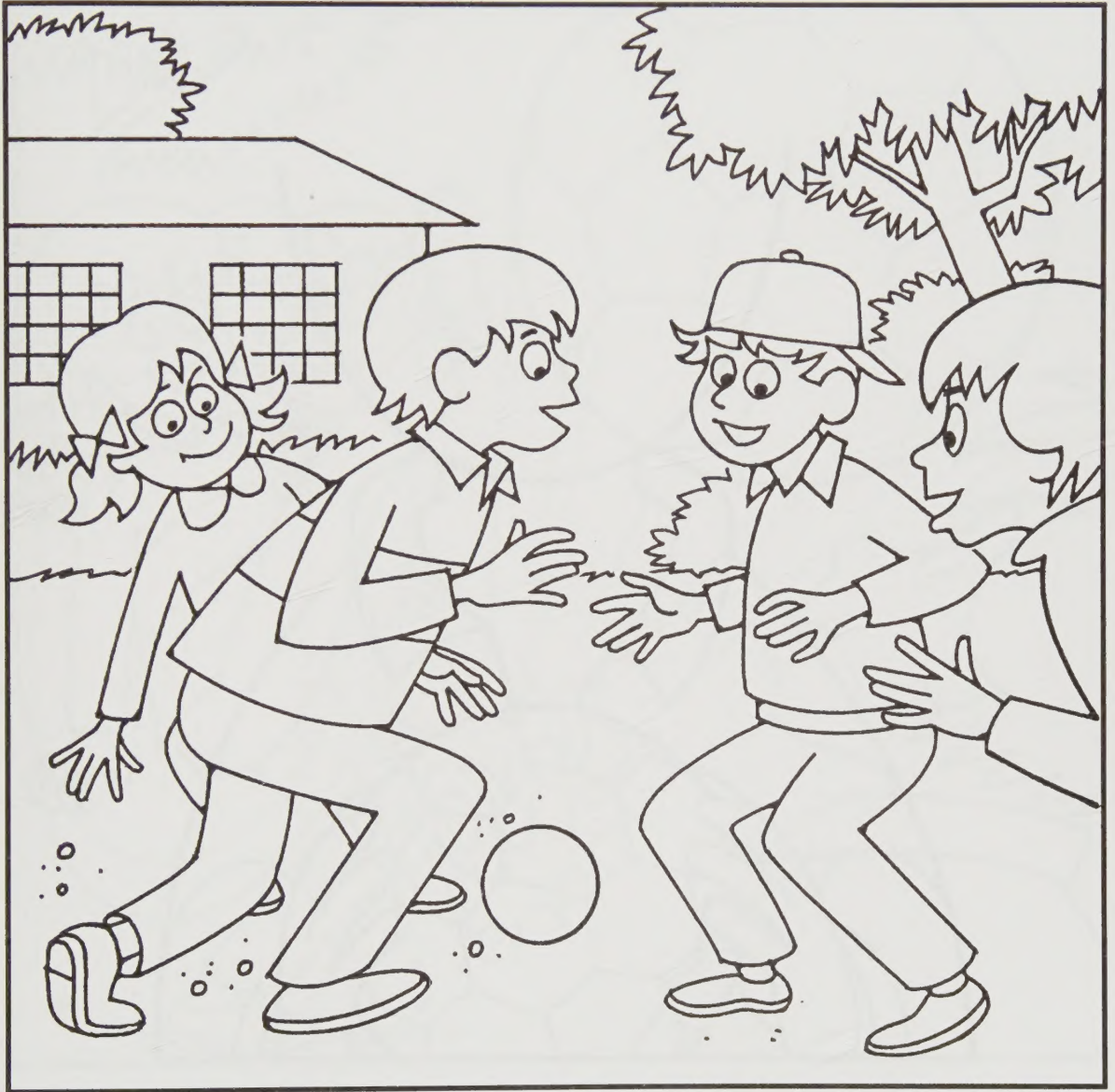
Jim & Joan Boulden



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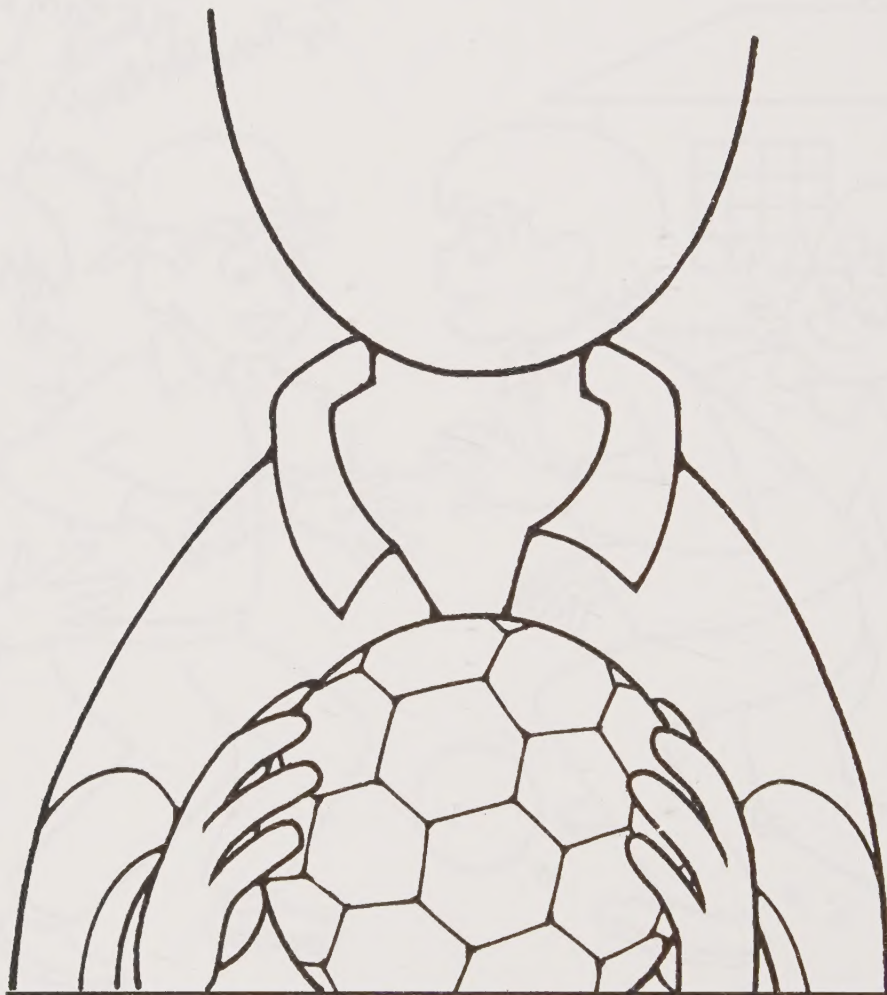
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It's a beautiful day at Lincoln Elementary.
Jason and his friends are having fun
kicking a ball to one another.



What's your name?

Jason is feeling happy.
Draw a face showing how you feel today.



Art by Peter Winter

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The ball goes flying when Jason gives it an extra big kick. Jason is surprised how far he kicked the ball.



What is your favorite game at school?

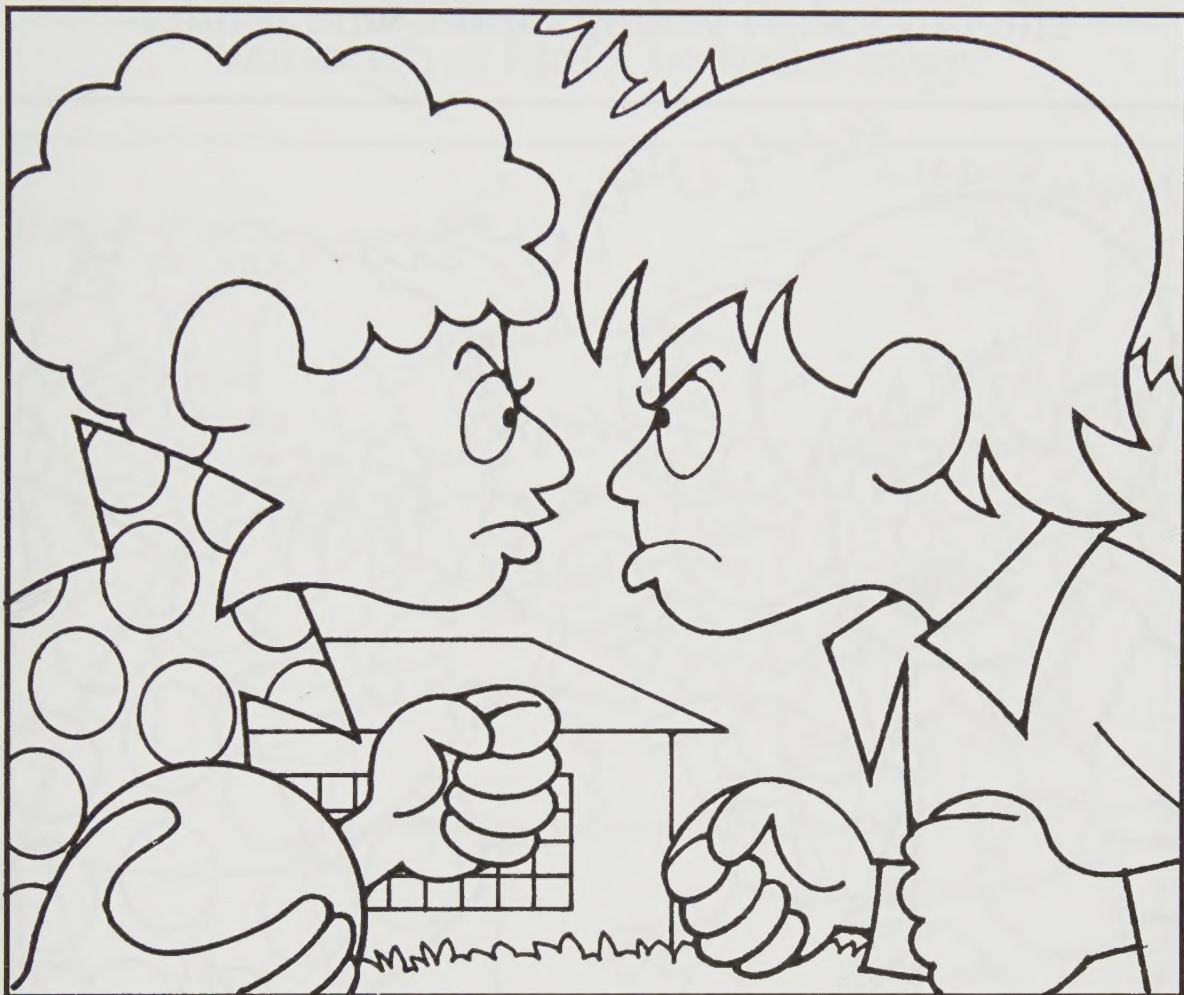
The ball rolls over to where Mark is playing.

Mark starts playing with the ball and won't give it back to Jason.



How do you think Jason feels?

This story has different endings depending on the choices you make for Jason. Follow the page directions carefully.



✓ Check what you would do if you were Jason.

Try to take the ball away from Mark.

Go to pg. 6

Walk away and let Mark have the ball.

Go to pg. 12

Ask another kid to help settle the argument.

Go to pg. 23

Tell an adult.

Go to pg. 17

Stop and think of something that will be OK with both Jason and Mark.

Go to pg. 27

Jason starts calling Mark names like “dumb” and “stupid.” Mark calls Jason even worse names.

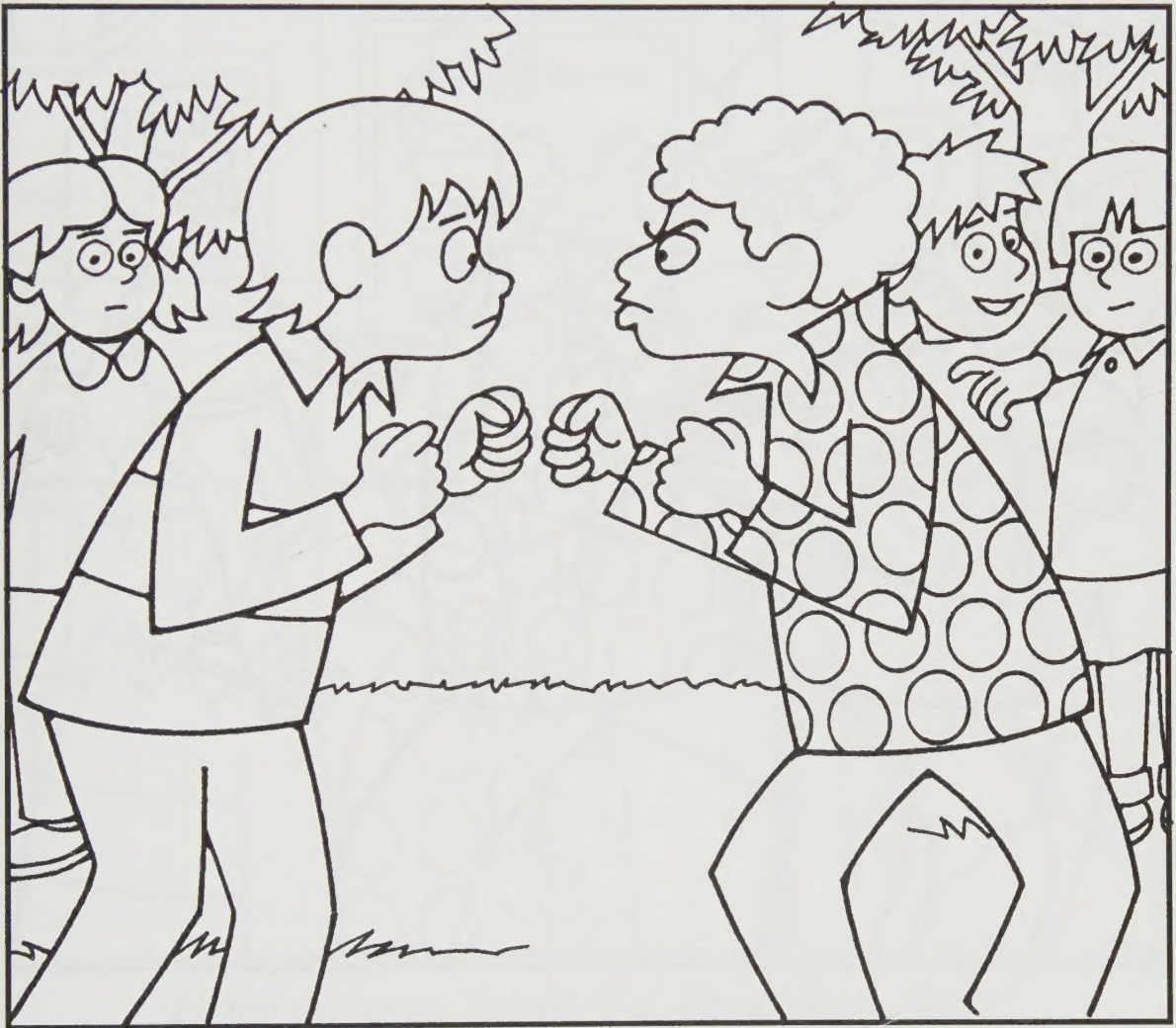
The boys start yelling louder and louder.



What often happens when kids call each other names?

Kids hear the shouting and gather around.
They think Jason and Mark may fight.

Jason doesn't want to fight, but he is afraid the kids
will laugh at him if he walks away.



How do you think Mark is feeling?

Mark and Jason start pushing and shoving each other. The other kids begin shouting. An adult hears all the noise and comes over to break up the fight.



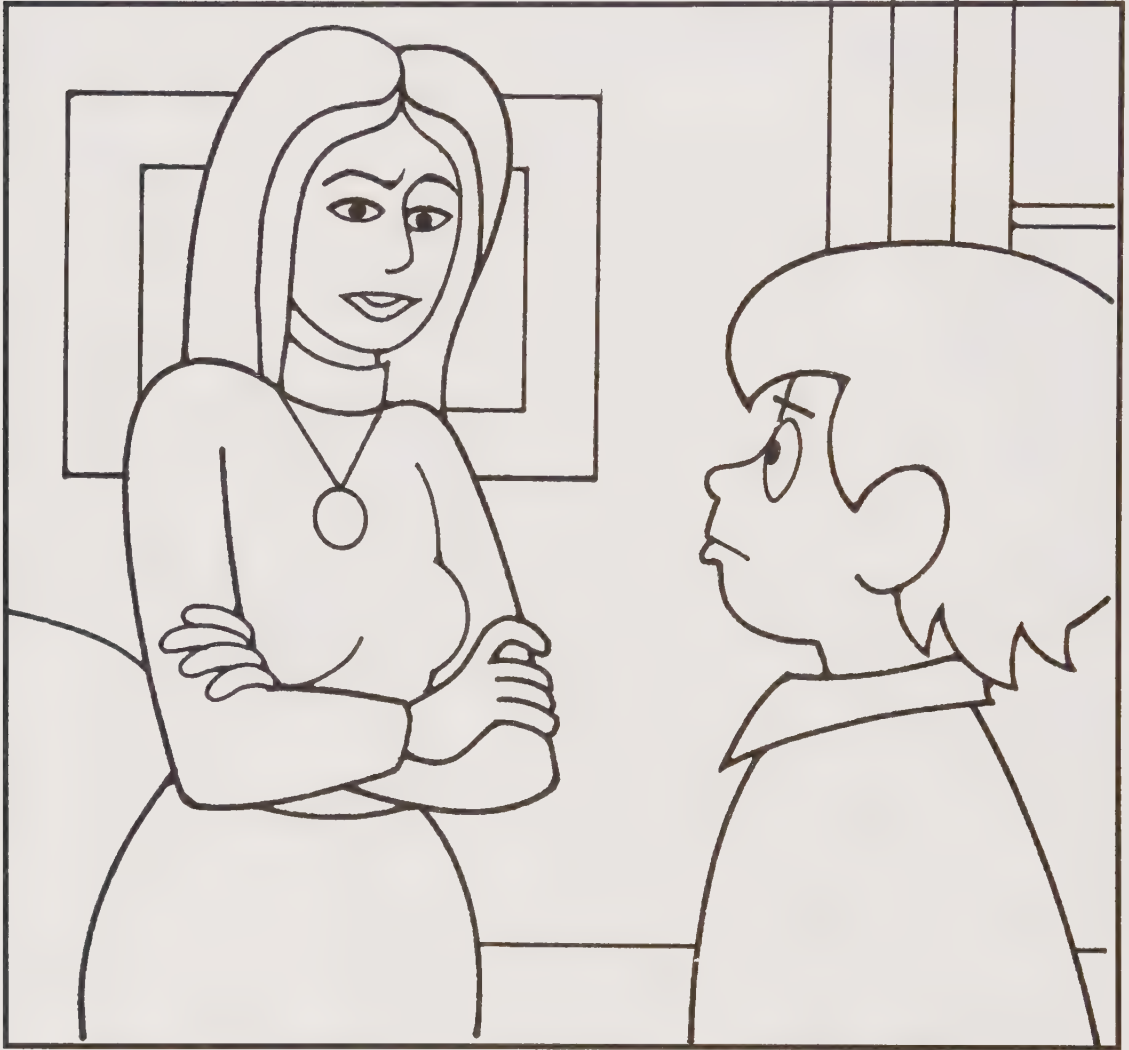
✓	Check what you think will happen.
	Neither boy will get to play with the ball.
	Both boys will get to play with the ball.
	One boy will get the ball and the other won't.

Mark and Jason are sent to the principal for fighting. He suspends both boys from school for two days. Then he calls their parents.



How do you think the boys feel now?

Jason's mom is waiting for him when he gets home. She tells Jason to clean his room after he does his homework. No TV.



What would your mom or dad say to you?

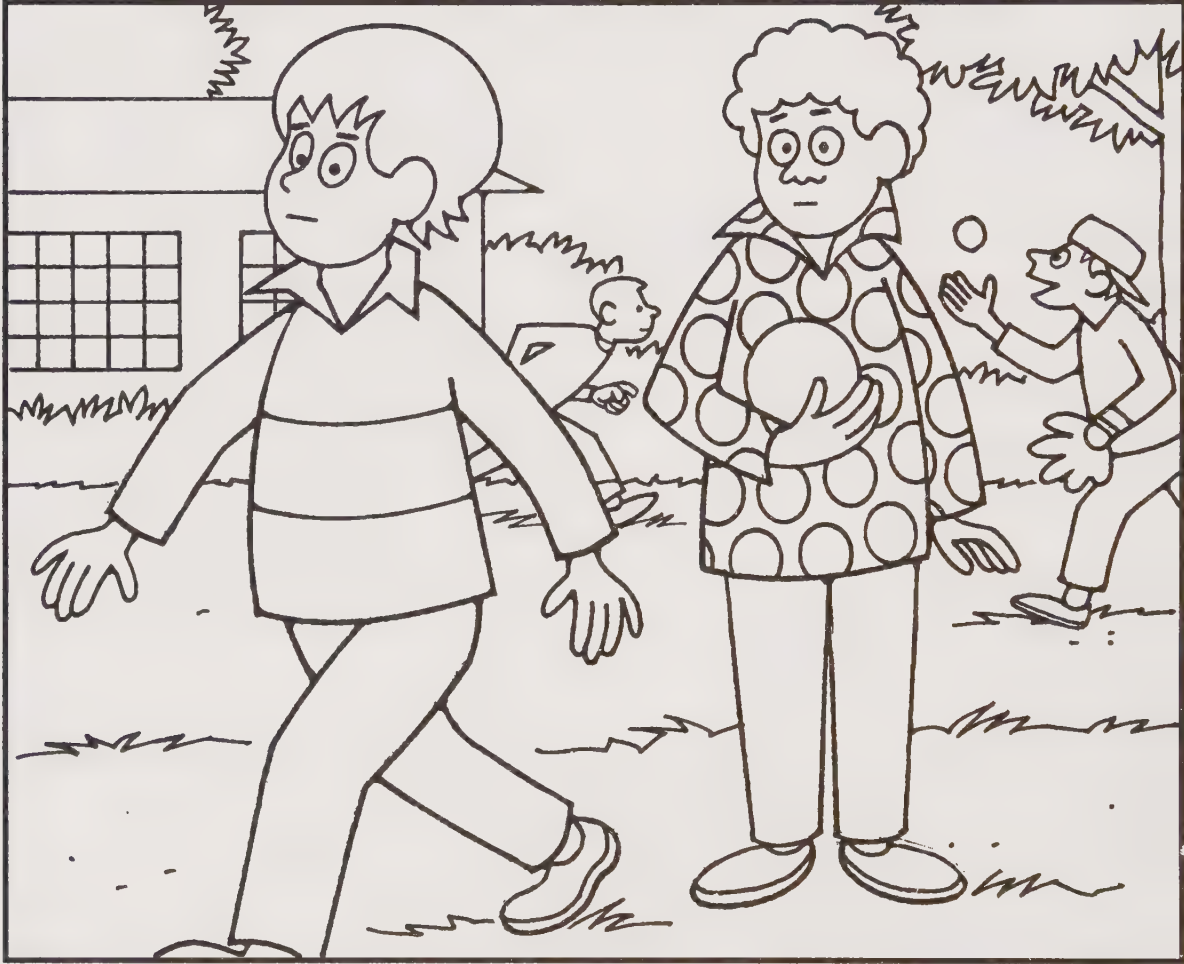
Jason gets bored sitting at home alone. He misses playing with his friends at school and there is no TV. He starts to think about how things have gone from bad to worse.



How could Jason have kept all these bad things from happening?

Go to pg. 5 and make another choice.

Jason looks Mark in the eye.
Then he slowly turns and walks away,
keeping his back straight and head held high.
The other kids start to play another game.



*How would you feel about walking away
from a fight?*

Jason stays mad all afternoon in class.

He can't stop thinking about how Mark has embarrassed him in front of his friends. He is afraid Mark may do the same thing again to him.



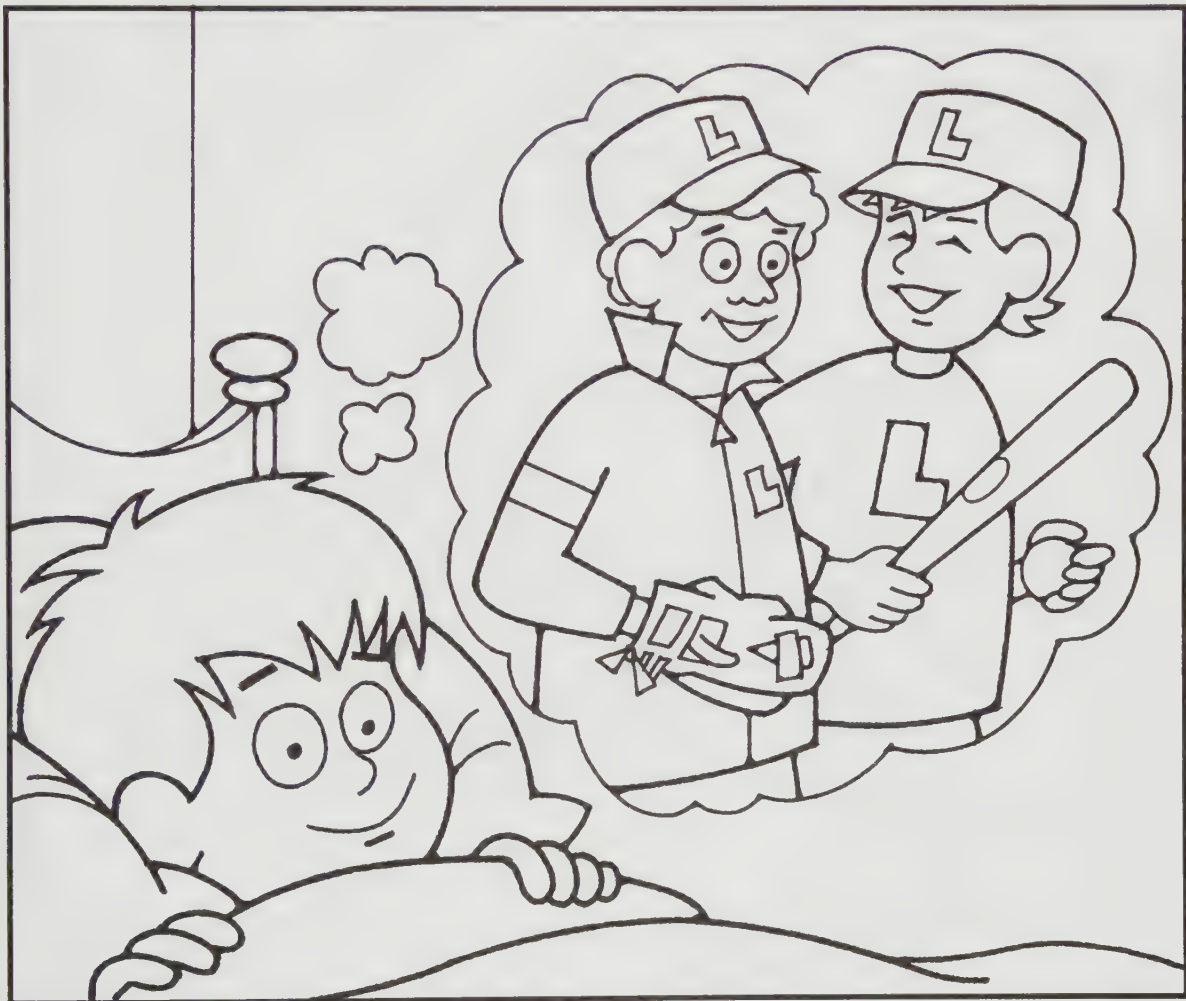
Why can't Jason forget about what Mark did?

Jason is still mad when he goes to bed that night. He lays in bed for a long time, but is not able to sleep. He thinks of mean things he can do to pay Mark back.



✓	Check what you would do if you were Jason.	
	Get even with Mark.	Go to pg. 7
	Decide the ball is no big deal.	Go to pg. 15

Finally, Jason decides that having the ball is no big deal and not worth all this trouble. He remembers the good times he and Mark have had together.



Tell about a time when you were mad at a friend.

The next day, Jason goes over to see Mark. He tells Mark that he felt embarrassed to have his ball taken away in front of his friends. Mark says he didn't mean to start a fight, he was just teasing.



✓	Check what you would do if you were Jason.	
	Punch Mark in the nose.	Go to pg. 8
	Ask another kid to help settle things.	Go to pg. 23

Jason tells an adult, Ms. Brown, that Mark took his ball away and is starting a fight. Mark shouts back that Jason kicked the ball over into his area. Both boys are mad.



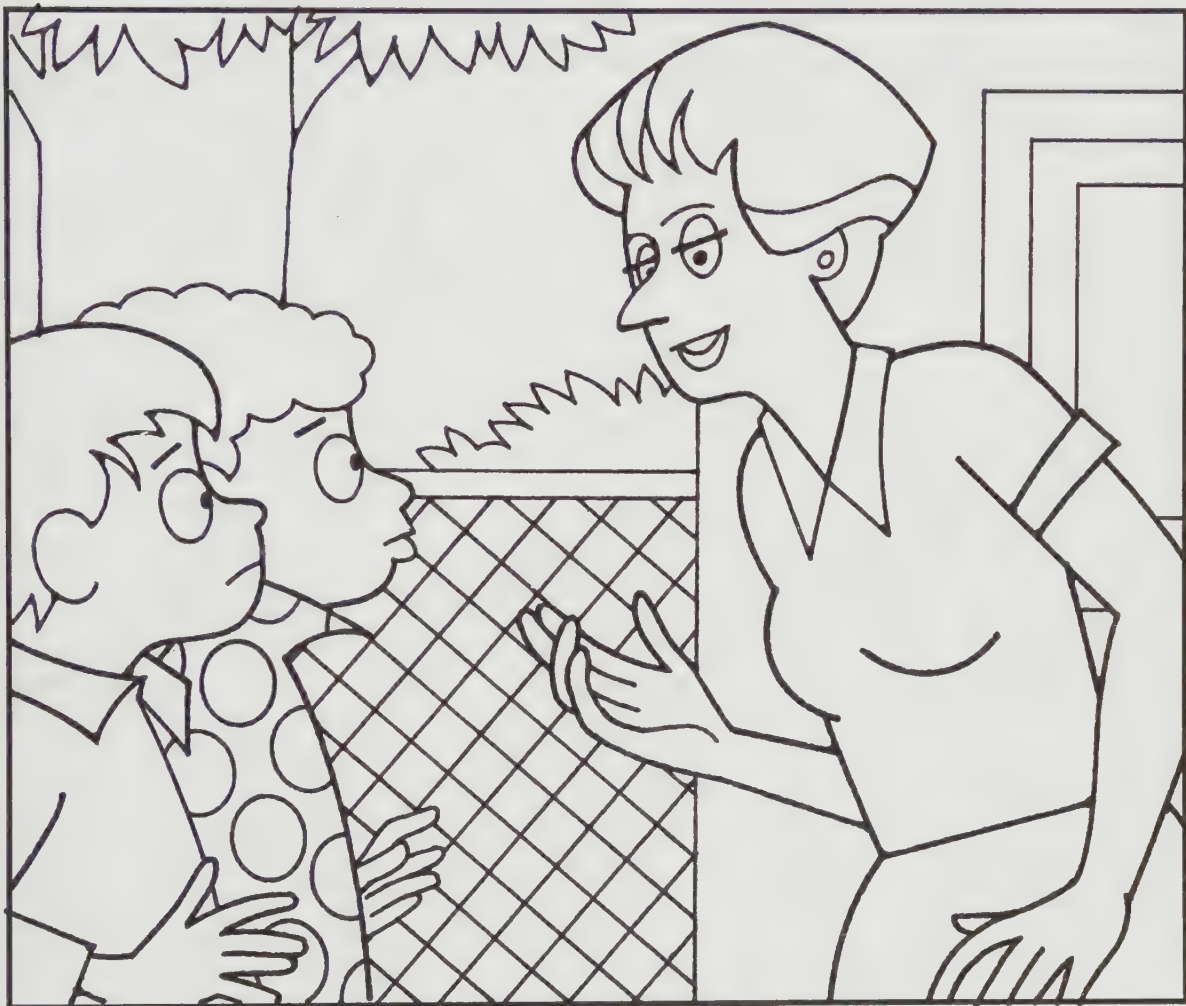
*How do you feel about telling on another kid
when they do something wrong to you?*

Ms. Brown asks the boys if they would like to settle this conflict. Then she suggests they go to a place that is quiet. As soon as they get there, both boys start talking at once.



*What happens when two people talk at once
and nobody listens?*

Ms. Brown tells the boys to take three deep breaths and then count to ten. Then they can tell her what happened, speaking one at a time.



*Why is it a good thing to stop and calm down
when you are mad?*

Jason says that he was playing with a ball when Mark took it and wouldn't give it back. He felt embarrassed in front of the other kids. Ms. Brown asks Mark to repeat what Jason said.



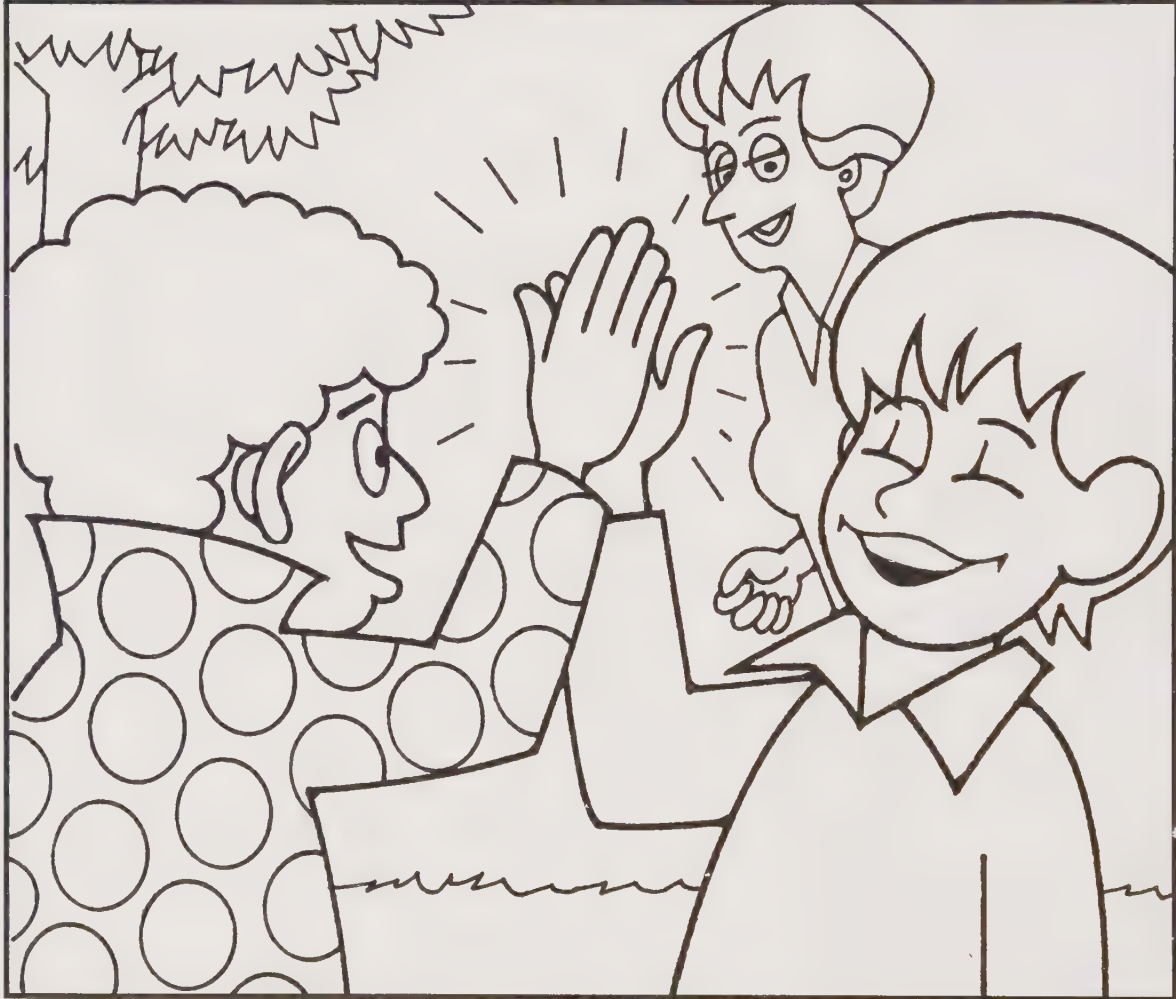
Why does Mark have to repeat what Jason said?

When Mark's turn comes, he says that the ball rolled into the area where he was playing. Since the ball belongs to the school, it is as much his as it is Jason's. Besides, he was just teasing.



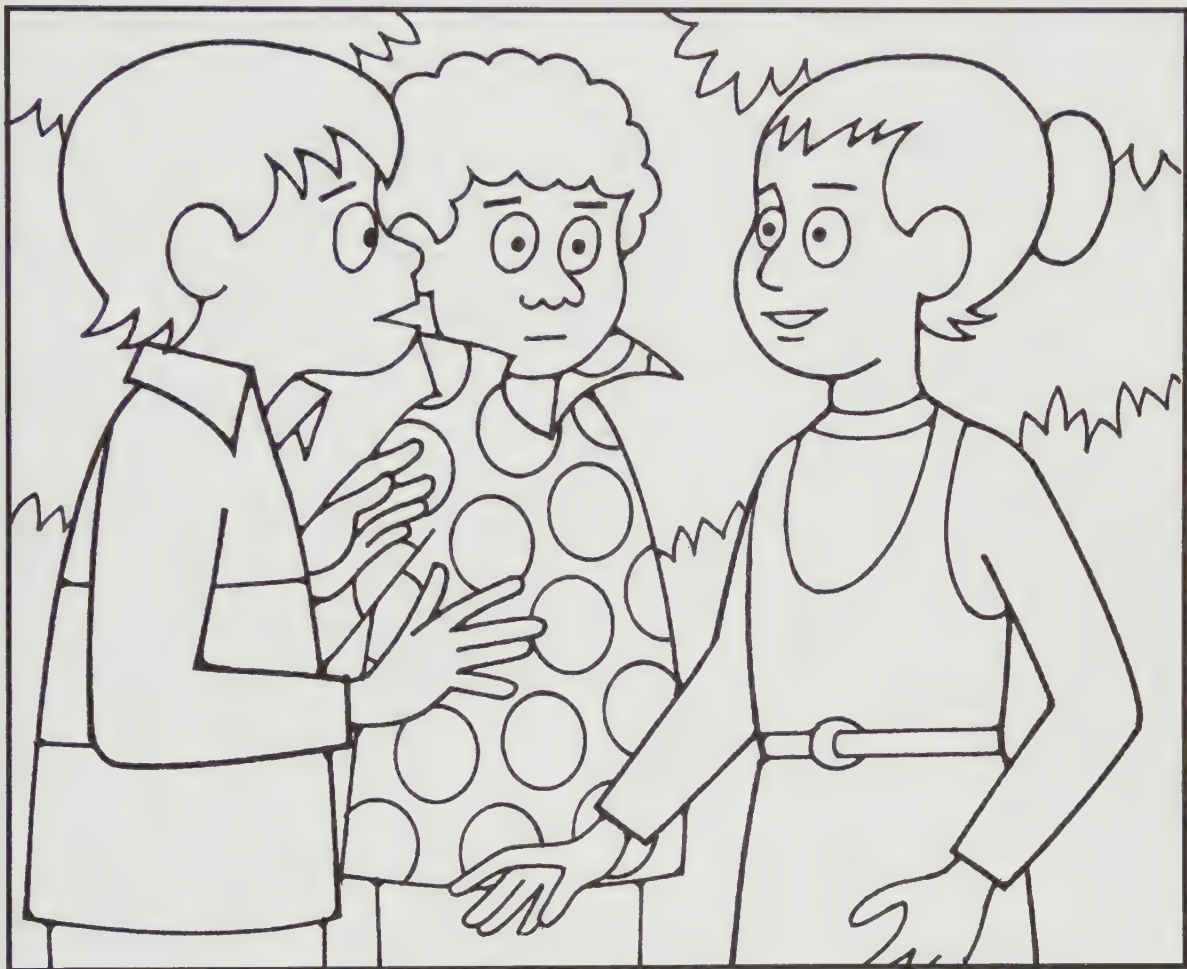
How do you feel when you are teased?

Ms. Brown asks the boys if they are still angry with each other. The boys say that after listening to each other and understanding how each other feels, they aren't mad anymore. They agree to play with the ball together.



Why is sharing often a good solution to arguments?

Jason asks Susan to act as a mediator. Mediators are kids who have been trained to help other kids solve arguments. They are sometimes called “peacemakers.”



What is the name of a kid that you could call on to mediate?

When Mark agrees to the mediation, Susan suggests they sit on a bench for a few minutes to cool down. Then she asks them both to each tell how they feel using I messages like
“I feel _____ because _____.”



Give an example of an “I” message.

Mark and Jason take turns telling their stories. They are careful not to attack each other by saying things like “you made me _____.” They also separate what they feel from what they think.



Why is it important for the boys to talk about feelings?

Susan repeats what she has understood the boys to say. Both boys want to play with the ball. Mark doesn't like being teased. Jason doesn't like being left out. Then Susan asks for suggestions on how to settle the conflict.



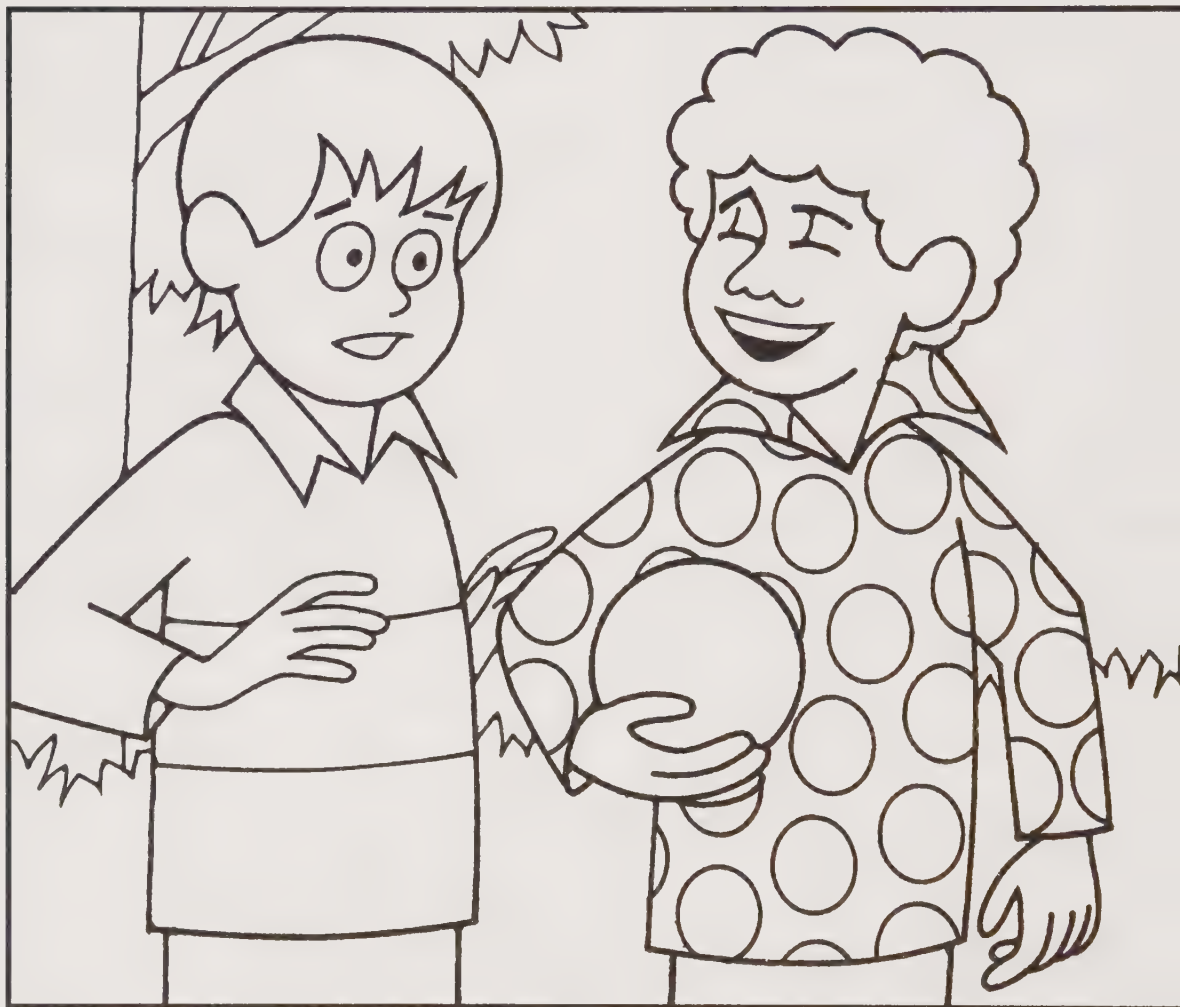
What can you think of that might be OK with both Jason and Mark?

Jason lets Mark play with the ball while he stops to think of choices that might be OK with both of them.



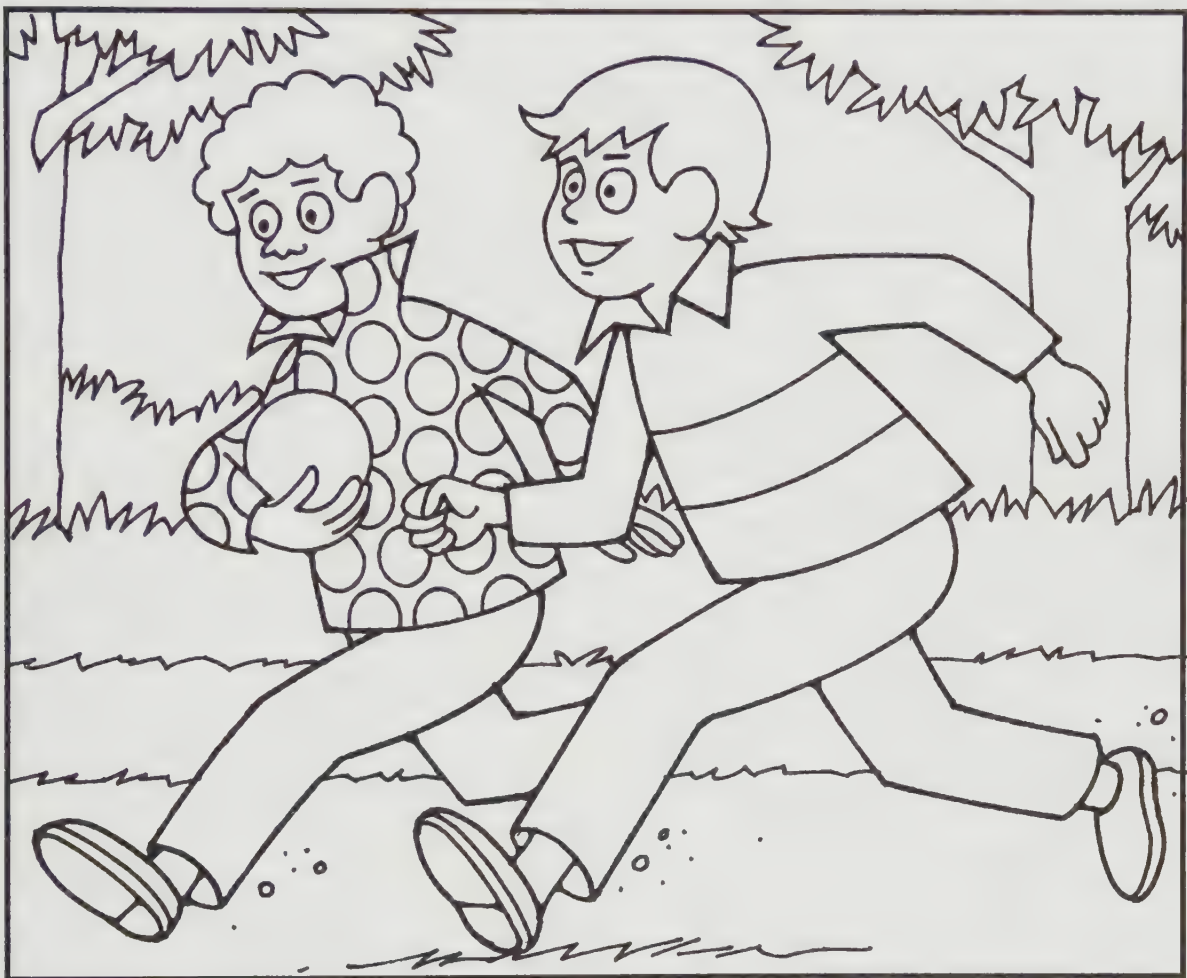
What can you think of that might be OK with both Jason and Mark?

Jason offers to let Mark play with the ball tomorrow if he will give it back to Jason today. Mark laughs and says he will keep the ball both days.



✓	Check what you would do if you were Jason.	
	Tell an adult.	Go to pg 17
	Make Mark another offer.	Go to pg 29
	Try to take the ball away from Mark.	Go to pg. 6

Jason then invites Mark to bring the ball and come play with their friends. Mark smiles and says that is a great idea. The boys run together to join the other kids.



What might be the real reason Mark took the ball in the first place?

Soon the bad times are forgotten.
Jason and Mark are friends again.
Sometimes they even laugh about
how mad they got over a dumb ball.



What is a conflict you have had that seems silly now?

REMEMBER

You have the power to choose how you act.
Think of a conflict you have been having.
What might happen if you:

1) call the other person names?

Result _____

2) push the other person?

Result _____

3) walk away and cool off?

Result _____

4) think of something you both can accept?

Result _____

5) ask an adult or a mediator to help?

Result _____

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